

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Okumura, for the reasons of record.

In response, independent claim 1 is herewith amended in order to more clearly and precisely distinguish the instant invention from the prior art, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are now clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied reference, for the reasons detailed below.

In the present invention, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the trenches 20 form an orthogonal pattern or matrix of trenches which are physically connected, as clearly indicated by the horizontal and vertical arrows adjacent the reference numeral 20 in Fig. 5. It is respectfully submitted that this orthogonal pattern of physically connected trenches, as clearly shown and as now clearly and precisely recited in amended claim 1, is neither shown nor suggested by the cited and applied reference.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the instant invention, as presently claimed, is now clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied art, and that claim 1,

and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are now in
condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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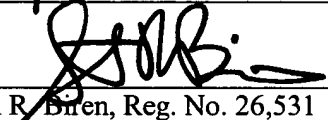
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